

SUNSHINE PERIOD

[REDACTED]

CC 96-45

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MAY 7 1997

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

From: Mattocks, Tom B. <tmatt@pathway.net>
To: A7.A7(RCHONG)
Date: 5/6/97 7:18pm
Subject: Universal Service

I am opposed to this unfair "tax" on internet users and providers.

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CC96-45

From: Howell, Thomas <thowell@pathway.net>
To: A7.A7(rhundt)
Date: 5/6/97 7:21pm
Subject: Modem Tax - NO

I urge you all to please not vote in favor of the "modem tax". An increase in modem phone line rates would have an unpleasant effect on small users in rural areas, Christian missionary correspondence and other small business and individuals. Voting for this increase would not be in the best interest for the computer industry and all the periferal companies affiliated with it.

Respectfully submitted
Thomas Howell
Eastbrook Farms
RD5 Box 62
New Castle, PA 16105
thowell@Pathway.net

CC: A7.A7(RCHONG, SNESS, JQUELLO)

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From: Young, Kathleen J. <tjefferson@pathway.net>
To: A7.A7(rhundt)
Date: 5/6/97 7:22pm
Subject: FCC Universal Service Plan

I am writing to oppose the above plan. Please take the time to study more alternatives. I believe that there is little or no data to support the need for the tax, or to indicate whether the current proposal will be enough to do the job. This tax is structured to specifically punish Internet and online services and subscribers. If this tax is necessary, it should be applied to all consumers and all businesses.

CC: A7.A7(RCHONG, SNESS, JQUELLO)

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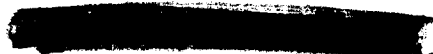
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From: Saylor, Ralph E. <2wheels@pathway.net>
To: A7.A7(RCHONG)
Date: 5/6/97 7:31pm
Subject: FCC UNIVERSAL SERVICE PLAN !!!

Ralph & Kathy Saylor
C/D's PA "N"
<http://www.pathway.net/2wheels>

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Why is it when some one with out the initiative to work for something gets

all the breaks. We the people on the net worked hard to get what we have .
Now some people think that we should pay for those not ambitious enough to find a way to afford the internet for themselves!!

The vote on Thursday should be "NO" we have paid enough with higher gas, auto tags, utilities and so on, Don't you think you have Strangled us the American Tax Payer enough !!!!!!!!!!!

" VOTE "NO" ON THURSDAY TO THE FCC UNIVERSAL SERVICE PLAN!!!!"

From: "WebMaster" <WebMaster@www.penndata.com>
To: A7.A7(JQUELLO)
Date: May 6, 1997 5:48pm
Subject: Modem tax

PennData
1400 Elizabeth Ave
Laureldale, Pa. 19605

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Dear FCC,

Being a smaller Internet Service provider, I was distressed to learn of the proposal of the Universal Service Plan coming up for your vote on May 8.

Passage of this proposal would not only hurt the smaller ISP but the consumer as well. The consumer initially would be charged for any additional lines he would add to his home. In addition in many cases the ISP would have to recoup this fee in some way and there is no doubt in my mind that the majority would have no choice but to pass the cost on to the consumer.

To my understanding, the proposal has not been studied as well as it should have been in two instances. In regard to alternatives to the proposal as well as ramifications if it is passed.

To summarize the purpose of this letter, VOTE NO, to the proposal regarding Universal Service.

Any replies can be addressed to: Webmaster@www.PennData.com

Sincerely,

A Distressed Small ISP

CC: A7.A7(SNESS,RCHONG)

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

From: Jamie Foster <jamief@asacomp.com>
To: "rhundt@fcc.gov" <rhundt@fcc.gov>
Date: May 7, 1997 12:56pm
Subject: RE: AOP Alert 97:06 FCC To Vote On "Modem Tax"

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cc 9445
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I am strongly against this new "modem tax" bill. Please take all issues into consideration before voting.
Thank You,
Karry Foster

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MAY 7 1997

From: Exec@Aop.Org[SMTP:exec#a#aop#d#org@asacomp.com]
Sent: Monday, May 05, 1997 9:13 PM
To: Multiple recipients of list ASA.INTERNET
Subject: AOP Alert 97:06 FCC To Vote On "Modem Tax"

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

*** This is a broadcast message to all Internet Users ***

Below is a message which will inform you of legislative activities which are taking place and can affect the cost of your Internet service or the cost you may pay for your phone service. There was an attempt to silently slide this through unnoticed. Notice that this affects and small business, ISP or even individuals who have two lines in their home. It is supposedly also being sponsored by AT&T, whose costs won't change.

Thanks,

Jeff Binkley
ASA Network Computing

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AOP Alert Sunday, May 4, 1997

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The following is a legislative alert from the Association of Online Professionals, the primary professional association of Internet Service Providers and other professionals who manage online services.

Please give it the widest possible distribution.

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FCC Universal Service Plan Damaging To ISPs

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On May 8, 1997, the Federal Communications Commission will vote on a proposal regarding "universal service." Universal Service is the program that subsidizes low-cost communication services for organizations and entities who might otherwise not be able to afford access to these services.

If adopted, this proposal will cost consumers and businesses an estimated \$3 billion per year, and most of the financial burden will be borne by ISPs, online services and their customers. The Association of Online Professionals, on behalf of its members, urges you to contact the FCC and ask them to reject this proposal.

A provision of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (sponsored by Senators Olympia Snowe, Jay Rockefeller, James Exon, and Bob Kerrey) specifies that, upon request, individual telecommunications carriers must provide service to schools and libraries at "affordable" rates.

The FCC plans to fund the \$2.25 billion cost of this lower-cost school service each year by increasing telephone line fees for consumers and businesses that have more than one telephone line. The additional cost is estimated to be from \$4 to \$6 per line per month for businesses, and at least \$3.50 per line for consumers who have more than one telephone line to their homes. Details of the program are at <http://www.fcc.gov/learnnet/welcome.html#rates>.

For consumers, this will be a disincentive to add lines for fax or modem usage, and has been labeled by some consumer groups as a "modem tax."

The widest range of business users who have more than one telephone line will benefit from other reductions in long-distance charges that will offset the increases. This will not be the case for Internet Service Providers and online services, which have business lines used only for incoming dial-up access by their subscribers. ISPs and online services will therefore bear the brunt of the economic burden for this program.

Under the proposed program, Internet Service providers would be required to provide connectivity to schools, libraries and health care facilities at discounts of 20% to 90% off of normal rates. This discounted amount would then be reimbursed to the ISP through the Universal Service program.

The proposal has gone through a lengthy process of recommendation and comment, and is in its final stage. It requires only the vote of the FCC on May 8 to begin implementation.

AOP opposes the proposed plan for three reasons:

- 1) The FCC will implement a sweeping new tax before studying the alternatives (e.g., Net Day, access through existing state Internet networks).
- 2) The tax is structured to specifically punish Internet and online services and their subscribers. If the tax is necessary, it should be applied to all consumers and all businesses.
- 3) There has been insufficient study of the subject. There is little or no data to support the need for the tax, or to indicate whether the current proposal will be enough to do the job.

AOP encourages all online services and their subscribers to voice their opposition to this "modem tax" by contacting the FCC immediately. Contact information is as follows:

Chairman Reed Hundt: rhundt@fcc.gov
Commissioner James Quello: jquello@fcc.gov
Commissioner Susan Ness: sness@fcc.gov
Commissioner Rachelle Chong: rchong@fcc.gov

Or by mail or fax at:

Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington DC 20554
(202) 418-0232 FAX

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CC9645

From: <Execnvi@aol.com>
To: A7.A7(RCHONG)
Date: May 7, 1997 3:03pm
Subject: REJECT MODEM TAX PROPOSAL

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Commissioner Rachelle Chong:

I am a self employed single mother with 4 sons. I am completely independent of any kind of financial support or aid. I depend on cost effective ways to run my home based business, and I do not think it is appropriate for the proposed increase to burden the modem users who will not benefit from the other savings offsetting the increase as it will for regular telephone useage. The modem tax is an unfair distribution of taxation. PLEASE REJECT IT WHEN YOU VOTE ON MAY 8TH and research other means of taxing more fairly.

Thank you ~ Donna Simmons

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

From: Henderson, James <andy@pathway.net>
To: A7.A7(rhundt)
Date: May 7, 1997 2:47pm
Subject: FCC vote on Universal Service

We would like to express our objections to the "Universal Service" that you will be voting on tomorrow. We believe it is discriminatory in that it will tax internet and online service and their subscribers. If this tax is necessary, it should apply to all consumers and businesses alike.

Sincerely,
James and Nancy Henderson

CC: A7.A7(RCHONG,SNESS,JQUELLO)

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CC 96-45

From: Waugaman, Robert T. <jeanbob@pathway.net>
To: A7.A7(RCHONG)
Date: May 7, 1997 2:30pm
Subject: Modem Tax

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Dear Commissioner Chong

Please vote against the modem tax. It is very unfair.

Sincerely yours,

Robert T. Waugaman NN3Y

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

CC 96-45

From: Thomas R Walker <trwalk@juno.com>
To: A7.A7(JQUELLO, SNESS, RCHONG, rhundt)
Date: May 7, 1997 1:46pm
Subject: Modem tax

SUNSHINE PERIOD

I object to the idea of charging extra for multiple phone lines in order to finance welfare for some internet users.

This amounts to robbing the average person to pay for services for someone else. I am against that kind of operation.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Walker
209 Dawson St.
Mason, OH 45040

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